

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay. The examiner has indicated that the case contains allowable subject matter.

The specification has been amended to place it in better US form, e.g. by adding US-style headings. In addition a new Abstract complying with US Rules is submitted herewith. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

Enclosed is a copy of DE 196 38 927 discussed in the introduction of the original application papers, and a PTO-1449 listing it. Its relevance is described in the application text so this reference should be made of record.

The §112 problems in claim 7 has been cured by making this claim depend from claim 4, which it properly limits. Similarly the secondary range in claim 12 has been inserted in new claim 13.

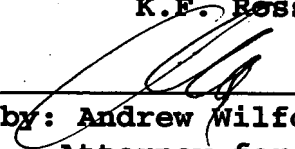
Otherwise the claims have been edited to improve their language and form somewhat without significantly changing their scope.

Claim 3 has been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly the subject matter of claim 3 has been added to claim 1, and claim 3 has been canceled. The reference to ceramic powder in claim 1 has been deleted. This makes claim 1 and claims 2 and 4-13 allowable.

Thus all the claims in the case are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Corrected version
 Substitute Specification
 Substitute Abstract
 PTO-1449